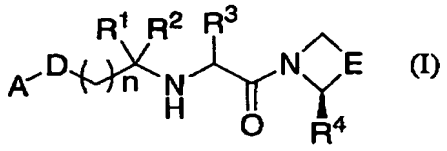
CLAIMS

1. A compound represented by the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, or $-COOR^5$ whereupon R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, or R^1 and R^2, together with a carbon atom to which they are bound, represent a 3- to 6-membered cycloalkyl group, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C6-10 aryl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a cyano group, D represents $-CONR^6-$, -CO- or $-NR^6CO-$, R^6 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, E represents $-(CH_2)_m-$ whereupon m is an integer of 1 to 3, $-CH_2OCH_2-$, or $-SCH_2-$, n is an integer of 0 to 3, and A represents an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclic group or bicyclic hydrocarbon group,

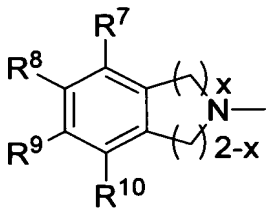
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein A in the general formula (I) is an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclic group, and the bicyclic heterocyclic group is a 6-5-system bicyclic heterocyclic group containing at least one

heteroatom out of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms.

3. The compound according to claim 2, wherein in the general formula (I), each of R^1 and R^2 is a methyl group, R^3 is a hydrogen atom, R^4 is a cyano group, D is -CONH- or -CO-, E is $-CH_2CH_2-$, and n is 1 or 2.

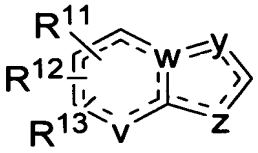
4. The compound according to claim 3, wherein in the general formula (I), D is -CO-, and A is a 6-5-system bicyclic alicyclic heterocyclic group represented by the following formula:



(II)

wherein x is an integer of 0 to 2, R^7, R^8, R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group or an optionally substituted C1-6 alkoxy group.

5. The compound according to claim 3, wherein in the general formula (I), D is -CONH-, and A is a 6-5-system bicyclic heterocyclic group represented by the following formula:



(III)

wherein ⎓ represents a single or double bond, at least one of y, z, v and w is an oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom, R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} may be substituted on any hydrogen atoms on the ring, are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, an oxo group, an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C1-6 alkoxy group, or an optionally substituted C6-10 aryl group.

6. The compound according to claim 5, wherein 1 to 3 groups out of y, z, v and w in the formula (III) are nitrogen atoms, and the remainder is a carbon atom.

7. An inhibitor of dipeptidyl peptidase IV activity, comprising the compound of any of claims 2 to 6 as an active ingredient.

8. The inhibitor of dipeptidyl peptidase IV activity according to claim 7, which is for treatment of diabetes.

9. The inhibitor of dipeptidyl peptidase IV activity according to claim 7, which is for treatment of diabetic

complications.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of any of claims 2 to 6 as an active ingredient.